

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION



Enclosure 2a
November 3, 2011

Meeting

RIDE

Thursday, October 6, 2011 - 4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Attending: George Caruolo (chairman), Lorne Adrain, Carolina Bernal, Colleen Callahan, Robert Carothers, Karin Forbes, Patrick Guida, Mat Santos, B. Shimberg

The meeting convened at 4:05 p.m.

Chairman Caruolo welcomed everyone and acknowledged that Regent Carothers would be joining the meeting in progress.

Approval of Agenda

On a motion duly made by Regent Shimberg and seconded by Regent Forbes it was

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education accept the day's agenda.

Vote: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follow:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

Alter the agenda

On a motion duly made by Regent Callahan and seconded by Regent Guida

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education accept to alter the agenda by moving the presentation of the 2011 National Blue Ribbon School awards to the top of the agenda.

Vote: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follow:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

Approval of Minutes

On a motion duly made by Regent Santos and seconded by Regent Bernal, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approve the minutes of the

September 1 2011 – Board of Regents Meeting
September 15, 2011 – Board of Regents Work Session

Vote: 8 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative, as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos

NAYS: 0

Next, Chairman Caruolo presented Superintendent Ricci of the Hope Valley Elementary School, in Chariho, and Principal Feeney of the Park School ,in Warwick, with a certificate honoring their recognition by the United States Department of Education as 2011 National Blue Ribbon schools.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Gist congratulated Chariho and Warwick and underscored the importance of such an award and how it is a reflection of the district's leadership and of the hard work of its students, faculty, and community.

She then gave an update on:

NECAP Science:

- RIDE released the 2011 NECAP science results.
- All students in grades 4, 8, and 11 took the NECAP assessments in May.
- Statewide, scores have improved by 3 percentage points over last year's results.
- Over the past 3 years, scores have improved by 8 percentage points in grade 4; 7 in grade 8; and 9 percentage points in grade 11.

Although scores are improving, they are still alarmingly low, as only 1 of 3 students statewide has achieved proficiency in science.

At the high-school level, despite this year's improvement, only 1 of 4 students – 26 percent – has achieved proficiency.

Also, achievement gaps persist across the state, as black students, Hispanic students, students living in poverty, students with disabilities, and English-language learners all continue to score below their peers at all school levels.

Earlier in the week RIDE held a news conference at Mt. Hope High School to recognize five schools and districts that made solid results and significant progress on the NECAP Assessments:

- East Greenwich High School;
- Mt. Hope High School, Bristol Warren;
- Reservoir Avenue School, Providence;
- East Providence School District; and
- Westerly School District.

Meeting at White House/Education Nation/Visit to Amistad Academy

Next, Commissioner Gist gave an update on events that she participated in throughout the week:

She and Governor Chafee attended an event at the White House, where President Obama and Secretary Duncan announced new opportunities for waivers on the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, also known as the No Child Left Behind Act.

Governor Chafee was one of only two Governors to be invited to be with the President for the announcement of this unprecedented opportunity for states to seek some flexibility, both programmatic and financial, under NCLB. R.I. will not be applying for a waiver in November and is determining whether February of 2012 is feasible.

She next gave an update on her participation in the NBC News Education Nation Summit in N.Y., where she was a panelist in a group that NBC brought together to give a national perspective on transformation of urban schools.

That week she also traveled to CT with Governor Chafee and Chairman Caruolo to visit the Achievement First Amistad Academy, and she noted how impressed she was with the level of engagement and partnership these schools have with the public school districts in which they operate.

Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge:

R.I. has applied for the Early Learning Challenge grant, a \$500-million federal competitive - rant program that will help states build more efficient and effective early learning systems for young children and their families. This is an opportunity for R.I. to be awarded \$50

million to help us build more efficient early learning programs. RIDE has worked very closely with the Early Learning Council, which includes representatives from early learning programs throughout the state, and RIDE has held two public forums to gather public input.

Budget Update:

RIDE continues to work on the FY 2012 revised budget and FY 2013 budget request, which will be shared with the BOR at the October 20th Work Session for BOR approval at its November 3rd meeting.

Persistently Lowest Achieving Schools (PLAs):

The second cohort of PLAs will be formally named tomorrow. The first cohort began its implementation last year. USED has granted R.I. a waiver to allow us to use a new formula to calculate using the more recent state assessment results. Because of that, the list that is being released tomorrow is an updated list from last spring. An update on cohort one will be provided to the BOR at the October 20th Work Session.

Public Remarks

Chairman Caruolo requested that public remarks be kept to 3 minutes or less.

There was public testimony from the following individuals:

Stanley Goldstein, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the MET School – Spoke of his 16 years of service to the MET School Board and of the many wonderful opportunities granted to the students who attend the school and how he looks forward to working with RIDE and the BOR to ensure that the MET School can be approved as a Career and Tech School under the new proposed Career and Technical Education regulations.

Cynthia Zapata, Senior at the MET School – Spoke about all of the great opportunities that the MET has afforded her as a student.

Loren Spears – Parent of MET Students – Spoke in support of the MET as the BOR considers the new CTE regulations.

Salvatore Calise – Junior at the MET School – Spoke in support of the MET and the great internship opportunities that he has been afforded as a MET school student.

Dennis Littky – [Co-Founder and Co-Director of the MET School] – Very pleased with the revisions that have been made to the CTE proposed regulations, but shared his concern with the evaluation piece of the regulations.

Steve Adams – Attorney for the MET School, spoke in support of the MET School and his concerns over the proposed CTE regulations.

Jonathan Conklin – Business Manager at the Paul Cuffee Public Charter School, spoke in support of the construction project that the BOR was being asked to vote on that afternoon.

Mark Santow – Parent of two Paul Cuffee Public Charter School students, spoke in support of the school and asked that the BOR support the recommendation for the approval of school construction at the school.

Michael C. Obel-Omia – Principal at the Paul Cuffee Public Charter School, spoke in support of the request for approval of school construction at the school.

Sasha Sidorkin – Dean at the Feinstein School of Education at R.I. College and member of the Certification Policy Advisory Board (CPAB) – Congratulated Commissioner Gist and staff of the Office of Educator Quality for their work on the development of the Certification Redesign proposal and shared his concerns with two areas of the proposal: professional-development expectations for teachers and linking evaluation to certification.

Melinda Theis, Superintendent, Pauline Silva [Finance Director], George Simmons, Operations Director, and Ed Frenette, Architect – Bristol Warren School Regional School District - They all spoke in support of the Bristol Warren Regional School construction project that the BOR was being asked to vote on that afternoon.

Jay Walsh – Consultant – Spoke of some his concerns with the proposed Certification Redesign regulations – Linking Evaluation to Certification.

Chairman's Remarks:

Chairman Caruolo announced the new BOR Appeals Committee, thanked Regents Forbes, Santos, and Shimberg for volunteering to serve on the Committee, and Regent Carothers for volunteering as an alternate member. He named Regent Santos as the Chairman of the Appeals Committee.

Discussion Items:

Commissioner Gist thanked the BOR members who attended the three public hearings that RIDE co-hosted with the Certification Policy Advisory Board and for having such a strong presence.

Mary Ann Snider, Chief of the Office of Educator Excellence and Instructional Effectiveness, went over the student growth and achievement portion of the proposed regulations, and she discussed how that piece fits into the educator-evaluation part of the proposed regulations.

APPROVAL ITEMS:

a) Voting Delegate at NASBE Annual Conference

On a motion duly made by Regent Shimberg and seconded by Regent Callahan it was

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approve that Vice-Chairman Guida represent

the BOR as a Voting Delegate and Regents Santos and Bernal as Alternates, at NASBE's Annual Conference.

Vote: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follow:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

b) Approval of Necessity of School Construction: Bristol Warren

On a motion duly made by Regent Forbes and seconded by Regent Guida it was

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approve the necessity of school construction projects totaling \$1,628,080 pursuant to 16-7-41-1.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follow:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

c) Approval of Necessity of School Construction: Paul Cuffee Public Charter School

On a motion duly made by Regent Santos and seconded by Regent Bernal it was

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approve the necessity of school construction projects totaling \$801,590 pursuant to 16-7-41-1.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follow:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

d) Career and Technical Education

On a motion duly made by Regent Adrain and seconded by Regent Carothers it was

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approve, for the purpose of public hearing, the Board of Regents Regulations Governing Career and Technical Education in Rhode Island.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follow:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

On a motion duly made by Regent Callahan and seconded by Regent Guida it was

VOTED: That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.